



■ THE OMEN gets naked ■



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## LAYOUT & EDITING STAFF

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## TO SUBMIT:

Submissions are due on alternating Saturdays before 5 P.M. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, semaphore, or email. Get your submissions to Lindsay Barbieri, Merrill B103, Box 0542, lkb06@hampshire.edu

"I was trying!"  
- Lindsay, on typing "naysayers"

Front Cover:  
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Back Cover:  
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## EDITORIAL: DEMOCRACY

by Evan Silberman

I'm not exactly the Omen editor, but Jacob is busy working on his Div III and Lindsay is getting excited about her birthday (she's turning five!) so I have taken it upon myself to write this issue's editorial. So...think think think... what can I editorialize on?

Oh, how about Community Council, and how they are changing the way they are elected? Does this seem odd to anybody else? As far as I know, Community Council's existence and composition is specified by the school Constitution. (Yes, we have one. No, I haven't read it. But that's OK, because you haven't either.) And yet somehow, Council has decided that it should elect its members differently, and will hold elections by residence in the fall in addition to the election of at-large members. While this seems like a Good Thing to me, I think it's absurd that Council is attempting to change the terms of its own elections.

Argument by analogy: Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constituion provides for the election of the House of Representatives by the people of the several states. If Congressed tried to pass a law saying that the House of Representatives would be elected by the people of several of the states, like perhaps just Nebraska and American

Samoa, there would be a public outcry and the Supreme Court would be quick to declare the whole thing unconstitutional. The mode of election of Representatives can't be changed except by Constitutional Amendment—which, notably, is not the prerogative of the Representatives themselves.

Yet this is what Community Council seems to be doing. They're not disenfranchising anyone, of course, but they are changing the rules of how people run for and are elected to Community Council. This is a clear conflict of interest. Who knows what devilish machinations Alex Torpey is setting in motion with this change? Maybe next spring we'll hear how Council has decided to have their members elected by birth month.

Aside from all that, we have a cracking good issue of the Omen for you. There's at least eight thousand words of rambling about how Hampshire *really* ought to work—even more if the Re-Rad people got us their Div I proposal by deadline. There's a comic about a pregnancy test. There are poems about Peter Pan Buses. Maybe, if you are lucky, you will find within these pages a taste of joy. But I doubt it. ☹

## POLICY

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited,

and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Saturday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Fridays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

*The Omen Haiku*

**Views in the Omen (5)**

**Do not necessarily (7)**

**Reflect the staff's views (5)**







## by David Axel Kurtz

It is the necessary goal of this college (as I would hope, perhaps vainly, with other colleges likewise) that it secure for its students, for each student individually, a learning environment in which they might flourish. This would mean an educational system in which they might be able to learn at the greatest speed, & to have their understanding of the given topics delve to the greatest possible depths, the aggregate of these two things being what I would call efficiency of learning. They must be able to learn, they must wish to learn, their learning must be assisted, and their learning must be rewarded – each to a level that would make Aristotle blush and Oxbridge blanch, should things be structured unto this pedagogic Omega-point. To argue how best to accomplish this (for example, to judge the quality of one form of Div I over another based upon its relative success in accomplishing this goal) is one discussion that might be had. Yet I would say that it is a second-order discussion, which presupposes that such a place – such an infinite and indiscriminate Socrates' Garden – is indeed what we consider the omega-point for our institution of higher learning.

We are not a University, I argue, and therefore have no responsibility to being Universal. Moreover, are we to commit to such a thing, it is a burden which shall instantly break the back of our experimental (dare I say, radical?) educational philosophy. Our diploma will no longer carry the weight of Hampshire diplomas of old, for Hampshire will no longer be the college of old. Instead of being a first-rate institution outside of the mainstream, it will be a third-rate institution inside the mainstream; and even if it is able to salmon its way up that effluvia to eclipse in the popular mind Harvard and MIT and Yale... it will still only have succeeded in becoming the triumph of a different educational model.

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This is not the place for post-modernist eschewing of value judgments. We must decide that this is what we want and that we wish to stay away. To define those terms will not be an easy job, but

I have difficulty with any academic program whereby the value of a







If a course were not simply offered in general, that students might or might not flock to it as it were their wont, but were rather collaborative efforts between student and teacher, that I think could not but be best for all concerned. In order for this to be accomplished, professors must be either required to comport themselves & their classes in such a manner, under pain of some sort of punishment (for such it would be), or else they must be specifically rewarded for so doing – I would like to think that employment at Hampshire College is that reward, and dismissal that punishment, but I doubt such is practicable, not certainly if the creation of such a system is placed, as it seems at the moment to be, solely in the hands of those very faculty. Too rare are the individuals who are able to vote to end their bread and circuses, especially if to do so would require them to acknowledge their lack of perfect success in their professional comportment. Yet as such does not seem to be the case at the school, some form of carrot or stick or both must be brought into use, or not only shall things not improve, I can only see things continuing to fall apart until we are nothing of our former selves any longer.

Should a smaller group of students desire the professor's guidance in an independent study, it could be striven for that they be included in a larger class, either of individual projects or similar groups, whether that class is already established, or it would need to be established; else they could work entirely outside of the classroom with that professor, and their project should go on in that respect.

VII. To be treated once within Hampshire College as individuals with

XXII. To have our progress towards matriculation judged by knowledge we have accrued, the wisdom we have acquired, the works we have produced, and the things we have accomplished, rather than simply







# Nate vs. Friendship

by Nate "Wooters" Wooters





